

Crossings

"Making known
God's deeds
among us."
Isaiah 12:4

Volume 11 Issue 8

August 2016

Pastor's Epistle

Our Mission Statement

*Called by Christ to love
God & neighbor
through deepening prayer,
broadening fellowship,
and expanding worship.*

"In this is love, not
that we loved God but
that he loved us and
sent his Son to be the
atoning sacrifice for
our sins. Beloved,
since God loves us so
much, we also ought
to love one another."

1 John 4:10-11

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Matthew 25. 31-46 is one of my favorite parts of scripture because in just 16 verses, this gospel writer explains Christian ethics in a very simple and concise way. This section of scripture declares that the king, (Jesus) was hungry, or naked, or thirsty, or imprisoned, or a stranger, or sick. And as such, the sheep, who discovered the king (Jesus) and his condition, offered compassionate relief, thereby gaining entrance to God's kingdom. Those people receiving this blessing asked, "When did we see you like this, and offer you assistance?" To which he replies, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it unto me (verse 40)." (*I paraphrased and shortened this story, except for the 2 quoted verses, for brevity's sake.*)

In this same passage, the king (Jesus) claims that the other folk, the goats, did NOT offer assistance to the king (Jesus) when they encountered him in any of these conditions, and were therefore excluded from ever entering God's kingdom. They too asked, "When did we see you like this, and did NOT offer you assistance?" To which the king (Jesus) replied, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me (verse 45)."

This, in a nutshell, is the foundation of our Christian ethic, which permeates every aspect of our individual and corporate lives. Rising to new life IN Christ, we are filled with the Spirit of Christ, which is over-flowing compassion for others. There is no litmus test in this story for determining *who* should get this relief, help, or assistance. We are called to just do it, be it, extend it, share it, live it. Why? Because that is what Jesus did for us, through the cross, and continues to do for us each and every day through forgiveness, grace, daily presence, love, and mercy.

In this election year, with all the divisive rhetoric, the claims of evil from all sides against all sides, Christ is in the middle of it all trying to get our attention to be different than the clamoring voices. As we make our decisions on who to elect, or how to respond to the chaos in our country and around the world, this text reminds us that we are called first and foremost, to live for God by loving the other – even if we think they don't deserve it. We are called to do the most good for the most people while at the same time doing the least harm to the least amount of people.

Maybe, just maybe – such compassionate and expensive love extended to the deserving and undeserving might change the conversations around the tables of this country. Maybe – just maybe – folks might begin to listen to the other person. Maybe – just maybe – folks might be receptive to new ideas, old concerns, and broken situations that still need attention. Maybe – just maybe – if we stop fighting so hard for our own rights over and against the rights of others – we could work together for the good of all. This ethic is neither a Republican nor a Democratic notion; – this is Jesus – placing the other before myself or yourself.

May the ethic of Christ permeate our thoughts as we prayerfully approach this election year and the complex solutions to complex issues. Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy

2016 “Where In the World Is Jesus” VBS Summary

Well another year of VBS has come and gone! We had about 20 children, including several visitors, who really participated well and had a great time. It was a great adventure as both adults and children travelled to Sweden, Haiti, and Nepal and found Jesus. We experienced Jesus through our Swedish beginnings; learned a Swedish folk dance, ate Swedish meatballs, and discovered why Swedish Lutheran churches are topped with a rooster (ask someone who attended for the answer). In Haiti, we saw a big change in the way people looked, talked, dressed and also the foods (fried plantains and mangos) they loved. Likewise in Nepal, where the air is thin because so many people live so high up the mountains – we experienced unique clothes, food(banana donuts and mangos), and attitudes.

Sweden’s church is decreasing in number, but they have moved from a state-sponsored church to a church system similar to ours, so it is quite a cultural change for them. Haiti was Christianized by the Spanish. They are mostly Roman Catholic. The ELCA and other Protestant churches have provided a long-term ministry there since the 2008 earthquake. Nepal was closed to all religions but Hindu until the later part of the last century – now their borders are open to all religions – Christianity is now the fastest growing church in that country.

Thanks to Crystal James for providing us with some Haitian items as well as a 7-minute video of the people, places and Christian ministry in Haiti. Thanks to Linda Hoskins for sharing with us her adventure to the base camp of Mt. Everest – her good and bad experiences, and her witness to the presence of God every step of her journey in Nepal. Thanks to Gloria Smallwood for all the behind-the-scenes prep work; to Tom Preston as the Customs Agent; Evelyn Sharpe as our traveling chef; Diane Dobson and Linda Preston as her assistants; Amanda Thomas and Ruth James for the crafts; Dakota Kelley for helping with games and the VBS slide show; Stephanie Kelley for heading up the games; Hayley Dobson for being the flight attendant and helper-at-large; Richard James for helping in the kitchen and being a great folk dancer; Jessica Hemann for helping with the planning of VBS and directing the music and dance portion. And thanks for all the extended family and friends of St. Paul’s who helped decorate and un-decorate for VBS. It was a great experience all around!

I also want to thank Bob & Ruth Johnson, Marilyn Larson, and Anita Simmons for sharing some of their Swedish heritage; Crystal James for sharing her Haitian objects; Hayley Dobson for sharing her Mardi-gras masks; and Tom & Linda Preston for sharing their elephants with us.

VBS was truly a ministry of the whole congregation this year and I am so grateful for all of you. Thanks be to God for this marvelous community of faith! Pr. Nancy



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If you want to see the Swedish dance we learned you can go to: <https://youtu.be/rNziA41zaf0>



St. Paul's Shut-ins:
Bob & Ruth Johnson

Education/ Prayer Team

RECENT PRAYERS

Bert
Gracie DeMoss
Ruth Ella Gardner
Leslie Horning
Austin Hudson
Margaret Jordan
Sandy & Randy Maule
Richard McDonough
Cathy Tietje Osmundson
Leo Oye
Gary & Delores Perry
Lester Rue
Travis Rummans
Shelly
Scott Sanger
Greg Tilton
Fred Witte

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(2015)

Linda Ulrich Johnson
Karen Moon
Ella Teno

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Continuing Prayers **(2014)**

Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Pat Mason
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL
Devin Sinclair

Continuing Prayers

Brantley Hemann
Laura Moore
Trisha Raven
Bert Whitlock

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WELCA Bible Study:

Wednesday, August 10 at 11:00 am. Our Bible Study title is "The Heart of the Matter-Conflict, Forgiveness & Reconciliation". First session "Treasure in Clay Jars" theme verse is 2 Corinthians 4:7.



VBS Decorations



Fellowship Team Ministries

Sunday Brunch



August 21



Birthdays

1. Dakota Kelley
2. Terry Simmons
3. Donna Peterson
9. Melissa Griebel
12. Royce Foster
14. Tom Preston
17. Brooke Sparks
19. Kelly Freeman
19. Hanna Freeman
22. Jesse Simmons
23. Jay Heaton
26. Steve Larson
29. Stephanie Kelley
30. Chuck Clouse

Baptismal Birthdays

3. Cassie Smallwood
4. Melissa Griebel
18. Mary Mitchell
22. Harold Benson
23. Jay Heaton
28. Broderick Thomas



Anniversaries

4. Michael & Amanda Thomas
8. Tim & Annie (Preston) Jenkins
5. Larry & Sharon Wilkin
16. Bob & Ruth Johnson
27. Mike & Kay Spieler
28. Brittany & Cody Flattery
28. Nancy & Martin Reed
29. Steve & Marilyn Larson

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Senior Fellowship

Pot-luck Luncheon: On Weds. Aug. 3 at 11:00 am.
Bring a friend to join the fun as we play a game or two.

WELCA



SPECIAL MEETING Aug. 25. We will be going out for ice cream at Culver's in Ottumwa. Carpool will leave the church at 6:30 pm. (Short meeting at 7 pm.)

WELCA Bible Study: Weds., Aug. 10 at 11:00 am.
will be continued through the summer months. (See more info on pg 3)



RESTORATION DAY BAKE SALE: Aug. 6 from 9 am -noon.

Please bring items to the square by 8:30 am.

Please have everything pre-wrapped.

Remember chocolate items (things that will melt) don't do well in the heat.

40th
Anniversary

Congratulations to Martin and Pastor Nancy Reed who will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary on August 28th.

Congratulations to St. John's Lutheran Church in Queen City, MO, as they celebrate 150 years of service on Sunday, September 4, 2016

Council



No Council Meeting in August.

Pastor Reed on Vacation

Pastor Nancy will be out of the office from August 26 through September 7.

Pulpit supply on Aug. 28 & Sept. 4 will be Pastor Bob Elgin.



St. Paul's Council Reminder

Have a blessed and safe Summer.

Faithfully remember your giving even in your absence.

A great way to stay consistent with your giving is to enroll in the Auto-Tithe program below.



AUTO-Tithe: Stop by the church office and fill out an enrollment form to start your automatic offering deduction.

This service won't cost you anything. You list your name, bank routing number, account number, dollar amount and frequency. It's that easy. Once enrolled, your donation will continue until you notify us of any change. You can **change** the amount or stop the auto process anytime, you just stop by the church office and fill out a new form. All information would be keep confidential. Join the 4 families that have enrolled.

Weekly donations will come out of your account on Monday's and the monthly donations will come out on the 10th of every month.

MISSIONS TASK FORCE
MEETING: Aug. 21 after worship
10:30 am



Back Pack Mission: SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We will assemble and bless the 8 kindergarten back packs after worship on **August 7**. Please bring all your supplies by 8/6.

Boxes of Hope Continuing Mission: for the Emergency Assistance Office.

Items that are in the greatest demand are:

All-purpose cleaning products

Bathroom cleaners

Dish soap

Body wash (not bar soap)

Toilet paper

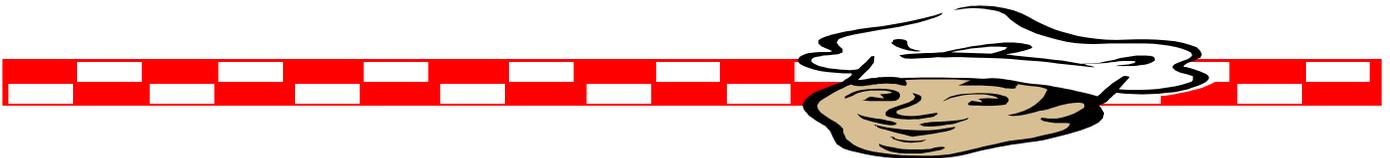
Shampoo



Restoration Day Water Bottles

(Saturday, Aug 6)

We will be providing water after the 5K run this year. Any left over water after the race will be handed out at the St. Paul's bake sale table on the square. If you can help pass out the water please let us know.



God's Free Grace ————— Free Community Spaghetti Supper

For the privilege of serving the people of Albia; St. Paul's will be offering a free spaghetti meal on September 13. More details coming soon.

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Gail Clouse & Gloria Smallwood

<u>Aug. 7</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Don & Karen Niebuhr
	Lector:	Gail Clouse
<u>Aug. 14</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Don & Karen Niebuhr
	Lector:	Anita Simmons
<u>Aug. 21</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Charlie & Gloria Smallwood
	Lector:	Gloria Smallwood
<u>Aug. 28</u>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	Charlie & Gloria Smallwood
	Lector:	Gloria Smallwood

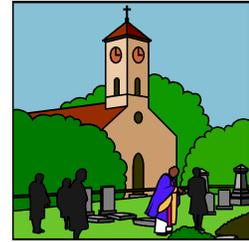
Worship Team Ministries

Worship Meeting:
August 7 after
Worship.



Schedule for August

August 7	Lydia light & put out the candles Nikko collect communion cups
August 14	Parker light & put out the candles Sophie collect communion cups
August 21	Grayson light & put out the candles Morgan collect communion cups
August 28	Nikko light & put out the candles Lydia collect communion cups



Sunday Worship
9:00 am



SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Saturday, August 6.

Worship will be at 6:30 pm with Holy Communion.

This will be our last Saturday, Summer Worship.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
335 North Eighth Street
Albia, IA 52531

Phone: 641-932-7270
Email: splalbia@iowatelecom.net
Web Site—<http://www.splalbia.org>
Office Hours: Tues.-Weds.-Thurs.
9 am-2 pm

Place Mailing Label Here

Get your newsletter by e-mail and in color. Send your e-mail address to the church office.

Links:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
The Southeast Iowa Synod of the ELCA

www.elca.org
www.seiasynod.org



Radio Broadcast St. Paul's worship service is broadcast each Sunday on
KIIC (96.7 FM) during their Sunday Son—Up programs starting at 8:00 am.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OFFICE HOURS: Monday 9:30 –11:30 am & 1-3 pm
Wednesday 10 am—Noon & 1—3 pm Friday 9 am—Noon



WEB SITE:Check out St. Paul's Web site at <http://www.splalbia.org>.

You will find our newsletters, calendar and recipe.

Please send any photos and recipes you would like to share and Martin Reed will add these to St. Paul's Web site.



**RESTORATION DAY
WELCA BAKE SALE**

Aug. 6 from 9 am –noon on the Courthouse grounds.



**Restoration Day Aug. 6
Passing out Water Bottles
After 5 k race**



**Riverside Bible
Camp Quilt Auction
Saturday, August 6
at 1:00 pm.**



**BACK TO
SCHOOL
On August 23**